

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A method of treating pancreatitis which method comprises administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist at an amount effective to treat pancreatitis to ~~the a~~ subject in need of such treatment, **wherein said IL-6 antagonist inhibits the binding of IL-6, IL-6 receptor or gp130.**

15. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 14 in which the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

16. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

17. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor.

18. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor.

19. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

20. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 17 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

21. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 18 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.
 22. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.
 23. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 22 in which the humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.
 24. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 14 in which the pancreatitis is acute pancreatitis.
 25. (Currently amended) A method of reducing pancreatic edema in pancreatitis which method comprises administering an IL-6 antagonist to ~~the~~ a subject in need of such treatment, wherein said IL-6 antagonist inhibits the binding of IL-6, IL-6 receptor or gp130.
 26. (Previously presented) A method of reducing pancreatic edema which method comprises administering an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor at an amount effective to prevent or treat pancreatic edema to the subject in need of suppressing pancreatic edema.
- Claims 27 to 39 (Cancelled).